



September 16, 2015

Dr. Belle Wheelan
President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30333-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan,

The University of South Carolina (USC) and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) write to notify SACSCOC of our institutions' intent to terminate the joint PharmD degree program that currently operates under the organizational name of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy (SCCP). USC and MUSC will seek separate professional accreditations for this degree. We seek to phase out the joint degree over the next four years, completing termination by 2019 when the last cohort of SCCP students will graduate (students entering Fall 2015). The announcement to students about this phase out was sent August 7, 2015 (Appendix A).

SACSCOC approved the joint degree and the creation of SCCP in 2005 (Appendix B). Both USC and MUSC retained their approval from SACSCOC to confer the PharmD degree. That is, the SCCP never sought and never received accreditation by SACSCOC as a separate degree-conferring entity; the approval from SACSCOC was for the awarding of the joint degree. This is made clear in the attached letter from SACSCOC (p 3).

We are writing to formally apply for approval to terminate the joint degree and dissolve the SCCP. We assume we should follow Procedure 3 (for closing a program). A teach out plan, agreed upon by both USC and MUSC is included (Appendix C). This plan is contingent on the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education's (ACPE) final approval, which we expect to receive in the coming months.

Please advise if SACSCOC requires additional information. We have submitted a similar application to the ACPE and to South Carolina's Commission on Higher Education (CHE); we will keep SACSCOC abreast of progress on those fronts.

Sincerely,



David Cole, MD
President, MUSC



Harris Pastides, PhD
President, USC

Cc

Dr. Mark Sothmann, Provost, MUSC
Dr. Philip Hall, Campus Dean, MUSC College
of Pharmacy
Dr. Darlene Shaw, Associate Provost for
Educational Affairs, MUSC
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Accreditation Liaison,
MUSC
Dr. Steven Sheeley, SACSCOC VP

Ms. Joan T.A. Gabel, Provost, USC
Dr. Randall Rowen, Campus Dean, USC
College of Pharmacy
Dr. Kristia Finnigan, Director of Academic
Programs, USC
Mr. Donald Miles, Accreditation Liaison,
USC
Dr. Barry Goldstein, SACSCOC VP

Appendix A. Announcement to current SCCP students

August 7, 2015

We wanted to personally share some breaking news about the College of Pharmacy. Earlier today, the USC Board of Trustees voted to pursue independent accreditation for the USC College of Pharmacy, pending approval of a similar action by the MUSC Board of Trustees. The MUSC Board of Trustees will meet August 14, at which time they will vote on the same issue for the MUSC College of Pharmacy.

We look forward to continuing to keep you informed as the process unfolds and invite you to contact us with any questions. For now, the key points to know about these decisions are:

- The USC College of Pharmacy and the MUSC College of Pharmacy are working together to apply for independent accreditations for the Doctor of Pharmacy program
- Our first priority will be taking care of our current students
- While the South Carolina College of Pharmacy will phase out over the next several years, we discovered some valuable areas of collaboration that will continue

More information will be forthcoming but we wanted you to hear first-hand about today's decision!

Press release

Sincerely,

Randall C. Rowen, SCCP Interim Executive Dean and USC Campus Dean

Philip Hall, MUSC Campus Dean

Appendix B. SACSCOC Letter of approval for SCCP (appended)

Appendix C. Teach out plan for the South Carolina College of Pharmacy (SCCP) & teach in plan for the MUSC and USC Colleges of Pharmacy (MUSC COP & USC COP), pending ACPE approval

P1=first year pharmacy students

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
SCCP P1 – P4	No students admitted to SCCP; only existing SCCP students (P2 – P4)	SCCP P3 & P4	SCCP P4*	No SCCP students
No students admitted to MUSC COP	MUSC COP, P1	MUSC COP, P1 & P2	MUSC COP, P1 – P3	MUSC COP, P1 – P4
No students admitted to USC COP	USC COP, P1	USC COP, P1 & P2	USC COP, P1 – P3	USC COP, P1 – P4

- All three programs will teach the same curriculum.



**SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES**

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October 7, 2005

Dr. Andrew A. Sorenson
President
University of South Carolina
203 Osborne Building
Columbia, SC 29208

Dr. Raymond S. Greenburg
President
Medical University of South Carolina
171 Ashley Avenue
Charleston, SC 29425

Dear Drs. Sorenson and Greenburg:

Thank you for your letter of July 25, 2005, and the information on the proposed merger of the Colleges of Pharmacy at the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina into the South Carolina College of Pharmacy (SCCP). The SCCP will maintain faculty, students, and staff and offer the doctor of pharmacy degree on both the MUSC and USC campuses. In response to our letter of March 11, 2005, you provided the following information:

December 2004: The Boards of Trustees of both universities approved, in principle, the merger.

May 2005: The Executive Dean of the SCCP was hired and assumed the position.

Summer/Fall 2005: A Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities' Boards of Trustees will be completed that details the nature of the integration process and indicates the mechanism for forming a faculty of SCCP. The faculty thus formed will then construct a faculty governance process and finalize and approve curriculum, admissions policies, and academic policies (including promotion and tenure).

Fall 2005: Policies, procedures, and bylaws to guide the SCCP will be developed.

What are the proposed changes in the curriculum, libraries, and other support services?

Each College of Pharmacy has a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. The Pharm.D. degree will continue to be offered on both



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campuses. The SCCP will have a unified curriculum where all students have the same course and degree requirements and access to the same courses. The SCCP curriculum will be developed by a joint committee representing the two campuses and will result from harmonization of the two existing curricula. All courses will be listed under the catalogs of both universities. The curriculum will be offered by a combination of live didactic and experiential instruction, distance instruction (except for the experiential component), and web-based instruction. Faculty, staff, and students will have full access to the library resources of either campus. The buildings on each campus which house Pharmacy Education will remain as part of SCCP; new space is being developed on each campus to accommodate growth. The university infrastructures will continue to support the SCCP. This includes, but is not limited to, student services and enrollment, registrar services, information technology, human resources, libraries, and health and wellness facilities.

Since the Executive Dean will report to a Vice President on each campus, who will serve as arbiter, and should there be differences in the positions of the Vice Presidents on key issues?

The General Counsels of each campus will serve as arbiters. A possible process would include an *ad hoc* arbitration committee, as needed, with each university making available all necessary resources for a timely process. The General Counsels would then report their decision to the two Vice Presidents who will then report the outcome to the respective university Presidents.

How will assets be shared?

Assets available to the independent colleges will be available to the merged SCCP. Both universities have shared expenses for the administrative and academic operations of the SCCP.

How will you clarify reporting to two governing entities?

The procedure for reporting will be detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will be signed by both Boards of Trustees. This MOU will describe how the administration of the SCCP relates to the two university administrations and the two Boards of Trustees. It is anticipated that this will be developed and approved in Summer or Fall 2005.

What funding formula will the two institutions use to determine the level of resources that they will each allocate to the joint operation?

The SCCP will have a unified tuition and fee structure that will be the same for students on each campus. All tuition and fee revenue will be divided each semester by the two universities based on the proportion of students being instructed at each site. Each of the universities will then use their own funding formula to determine the appropriation for their campus.

When students enroll, will they do so through USC or MUSC?

The SCCP will have a unified admissions process where students apply for admission to either campus by one on-line application process. The SCCP will have an admissions committee of members from both campuses to rank and select students. Once a student is accepted for



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admission, they will be given student status on both campuses. For financial aid and transcript record purposes, the students will have one primary campus and university, the one where they are located for classes.

Who gets credit for what amount of FTE when it comes to making requests for state resources?

When necessary to determine credit hour production, the total program credit hours produced will be divided each semester by the two universities based on the proportion of credit hours being provided to students at each site.

Who controls the budget for the institution in terms of signing procurement orders?

The budget is controlled on both campuses by the Executive Dean of the SCCP or his/her designee.

Will the South Carolina College of Pharmacy seek separate accreditation by the Commission on Colleges?

No.

Thank you for the information provided in addressing our questions. We accept the information, shall add it to our files, and require no further information from you at this time. I hope that this academic year has begun well for you and your colleagues.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President
Commission on Colleges

BSW/RER:jdw

cc: Dr. Gerald D. Lord
Dr. David A. Carter